

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
IN FAVOR OF L.D. 932**

**An Act to Promote Fishing by Youth**

**SPONSORED BY: Representative PEASE of Morrill**

**CO-SPONSORED BY: Representative CHENETTE of Saco,  
Senator COLLINS of York, Representative FOWLE of  
Vassalboro, Representative McCABE of Skowhegan,  
Representative NADEAU of Fort Kent, Representative  
NADEAU of Winslow, Senator THIBODEAU of Waldo,  
Representative WELSH of Rockport, Representative WOOD  
of Sabattus**

**DATE OF HEARING: April 9, 2013**

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Bill Swan, Director of the Licensing Division at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking in favor of **L.D. 932**.

L.D. 932 eliminates the requirement for a nonresident junior fishing license for youths 12 years of age or older and under 16 years of age. The department is in favor of this legislation as it will encourage more nonresident youth to fish in Maine. In addition, the proposed change would make the age at which a nonresident youth is required to have a fishing license the same as for a resident youth, making the laws simpler for everyone involved. The downside to this proposal is that it will have a negative fiscal impact to the department of approximately \$65,000 per year. We do believe that this may be offset to some degree by the fact that if an adult can purchase a license and take their children fishing without have to also purchase licenses for their children they may be more inclined to do so.

I would be happy to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.